

Educators/School professionals Call on Governor Cooper to stop ICE in NC - Sign On

Mr. Governor,

Over the last few weeks, we have observed a sharp increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in our communities across the great state of North Carolina. We have heard reports of ICE agents stopping cars in the middle of the road to make arrests, entering private properties without judicial warrants, detaining without providing reason followed by interrogation without reading Miranda rights, holding minors against their will, and making arrests near schools causing immense fear within our schools. We are appalled and infuriated by these reckless and aggressive tactics.

Governor Cooper - we call on you to sue the Trump administration for the unprecedented and immoral actions of ICE in our state.

ICE raids have targeted Latino immigrants, regardless of citizenship status or documentation. North Carolina is home to approx 787,971 immigrants, almost 50 percent (approx. 387,380) identify as Latino. In our schools, we have witnessed the real human cost to families with more children and families in our district suffering from the traumatic ramifications of this style of enforcement. Families so consumed with distress that they barely make it through the day. These are not just our immigrant families, but also US citizen families. It ripples throughout our entire school community. Students of all ages are weeping in fear daily in school, experiencing headaches and stomach aches due to the extreme anxiety and stress these raids cause them. They are not able to concentrate in class due to the fact that they are worrying about their communities every minute of the day. As educators we see student's health begin to decline due to lack of sleep and depression. In elementary schools specifically, attendance has drastically dropped due to parents not wanting to drive out of fear or not wanting to be away from their children even for a school day. All students have many questions and cannot understand why this is happening. We cannot educate students under these circumstances.

In response to these raids understaffed and under-resourced schools have created rapid response teams to provide food, shelter, find pro-bono lawyers, provide social and emotional support and more. This is an extra load on both the school professionals and the families affected. Students should be enjoying their childhood, having fun learning new things at school, not suffering extreme duress due to ICE.